India and abroad attended a conference on "Global Warming and Climate Change-perspectives from developing countries" organised by the Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, The Woods Hole Research Centre, USA, the World Resources Institute, USA, from 21-23 February, 1989 at Delhi.

(b) Government of India and other agencies have organised conferences on related subjects from time to time.

(c) and (d) Recommendations made by the conference have not been received in the Government.

Setting up of a sancturay in the Rala Mandal Hill area

2509. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government have requested his Ministry to provide sufficient funds for the setting up of a sanctuary in the Rala Mandal hill area; and

(b) if so, what action the Central Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) No proposal from the Madhya Pradesh Government seeking funds for setting up of a sanctuary in the Rala Mandal hill area is under consideration of the Central Government.

Indo-Lankan joint panel on tea

2510. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Sri Lanka have recently set up a joint panel on tea;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) to what extent it will help in improving the production of tea in the country; and

(d) whether any concrete formula has been evolved in this regard and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) An Indian Tea Delegation visited Sri-Lanka and held discussions with Sri-Lankan authorities on matters of mutual interest including International Tea Scene. As a result of discussions both India and Sri-Lanka have agreed to set up a Working Group consisting of representatives of both the countries to work out the areas of mutual co-operation and the modalities for achieving such co-operation.

Trade between India and Sweden

2511. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation had contracted goods for exports to Sweden during 1988,

(b) whether it is also a fact that a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries was of the order of Rs. 1724/- crores;

(c) if so, to what extent the trade between India and Sweden has been increasing; and

(d) what are the details of the agreements signed for the year 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) State Trading Corporation of India (S.T.C.) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with M/s. A. B. Bofors of Sweden on 30th March, 1987, which provides for export of a wide range of manufactured items and commodities of not less than 50 per cent of the value of the contract amounting to SEK 8.4 billion or Rs. 1438 crores for supply of certain ordinance materials to Ministry of Defence. Under this MOU, exports take place not only to Sweden but to other countries also.

During 1988 goods worth Rs. 0.63 crores has been exported to Sweden under this MOU. In addition goods worth Rs. 0.53 crores have also been exported by S.T.C. to Sweden.

During 1988-89 (April to Sept.) India's exports to Sweden is provisionally placed at Rs. 38.21 crores and imports at Rs. 124.85 crores compared to exports at Rs. 36.81 crores and imports at Rs. 96 crores during the same period of previous year.

No trade agreement as such has been signed at Government level during 1989.

Alleged police repression in Batala and Gurdaspur districts of Punjab

2512. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several youths have fled their homes from Batala and Gurdaspur districts of Punjab out of fear of police repression;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken to allay their fear and whether any inquiry has been made into the allegations?

THE MINISTER OR STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

West Bengal Land Reforms (Third Amendment) Bill

2513. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when the West Bengal Government sent the "West Bengal Land Reforms (Third Amendment)" Bill passed by the State Assembly for President's assent; and

(b) the reasons for the delay in President's assent to the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) This was sent by the State Government vide their letter dated 19-12-86.

(b) The issues arising out of the Bill have not yet been sorted out.

Confiscated Goods Lying in Customs Houses

2514. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of huge amount of confiscated smuggled goods worth lakhs of rupees, which are lying in the Customs warehouses, unsold for years and are getting out-dated thus depreciating their value due to the carelessness of the Customs officials, which will lead to great loss to the public exchequer;

(b) whether these items remained unsold because the Departmental Pricing Committees have not fixed their prices and in other cases the price tags are misplaced, often making latest items, specially electronic goods, outdated, which will fetch scrap value price; and

(c) if so, what is the value of such confiscated goods lying in the Customs Houses throughout the country till date and steps taken by the Government to speedily dispose it off and avoid pilferage over long period of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Confiscated goods are disposed of soon after they become ripe for disposal and there is no indication of any substantial loss having occurred due to delay in disposal. The value of goods seized,